

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following:

As used herein, the term "around" refers to on all of various sides, including the exterior of and within any accessible portions of an object, or surrounding an object. For example, for an object having cavities or lumens that are or can open to the exterior of the object, around includes into those cavities or lumens. Thus, around includes in and around, within, through, and throughout an object. Around includes around any accessible solid portion of the object. As used herein, circulating around an object includes circulating around the exterior of the object and into or through any accessible portions of the object, such as any cavities or lumens. For example, circulating fluid around an object includes circulating fluid through any lumen or into any accessible cavity. Circulating around ~~[[and]]~~ an object with one or more lumens or cavities can include employing apparatus, e.g., as part of the liquid transporter, to direct fluid into the cavity or lumen.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following:

As used herein, "elevated temperature" refers to temperatures above room temperature and commonly employed for washing or presoaking wares or instruments. Washing can typically be conducted at elevated temperatures of about 20 to about 80 °C, preferably about 30 to about 60 °C, preferably about 60 to about 80 °C. Rinsing can typically be conducted at elevated temperatures of about 40 to about 80 °C. High temperature rinsing can typically be conducted at elevated temperatures of about 80 to about 95 °C.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following:

As used herein, the terms "decontamination" or "decontaminate" refer to use of physical or chemical processes to remove, inactivate, or destroy pathogenic organisms on an object or its surface and to render the object safe for handling, use ~~[[of]]~~ or disposal.

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following:

System (1) and/or sonicator (5) can include second sonicator (41) positioned on the exterior of system (1) and/or external to first station (3). Second sonicator (41) preferably includes a probe adapted and configured to be positioned near the object; see Figure 8 for second sonicator (41). For example, in an embodiment, the second sonicator (41) probe can be positioned near holder (11) positioned on the exterior of system (1) and used to manually sonicate the object. Preferably, second sonicator (41) probe (13) is moveable and can be positioned near a particular soiled portion of the object. Preferably, second sonicator (41) probe (13) is an irrigated probe. Alternatively, system (1) can include a liquid bath for immersion of the object and second sonicator (41) probe (13).

Please replace paragraph [0066] with the following:

System (1) can also include one or more emitters (51); see Figure 7 for emitter (51). Emitter (51) can impact the object with energy, such as microwave or light energy, inside or outside the system. Emitter (51) can be adapted and configured to impact the object with energy before circulation of wash composition. For example, emitter (51) can impact the object with energy before it is placed in to a station or chamber to reduce the burden of microbes or soil. By way of further example, emitter (51) can provide energy throughout the chamber or station before wash composition is circulated.

Please replace paragraph [0149] with the following:

Although a sonicator represents a preferred apparatus for applying energy before and during circulation of wash composition, the system (1) and methods of the present invention can employ sources of energy other than a sonicator and forms of energy other than ultrasonic energy. For example, a variety of types of energy that can be emitted ~~from~~ from a point source can be substituted for emitting ultrasonic energy from a point source. Suitable forms of energy that can be emitted from a point source, that can contract an object, and that can aid cleaning of an object include microwave energy, continuous or pulsed light (preferably ultraviolet light) energy, and the like.

Please replace paragraph [0185] with the following:

The present systems and methods can employ solid carbonate cleaning compositions, which are typically solids based on a matrix of carbonate and bicarbonate, but including additional ingredients. Suitable solid carbonate cleaning compositions are described, for example in U.S. Patents 6,177,392 and 6,156,715 and in U.S. Patent Applications Serial Nos. 08/989,824, entitled BINDING AGENT FOR SOLID BLOCK FUNCTIONAL MATERIAL, now U.S. Patent 6,258,765, and _____ 09/773,965, filed February 1, 2001 and entitled STABLE SOLID ENZYME COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS EMPLOYING THEM, now U.S. Patent 6,638,902, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace paragraph [0196] with the following:

A variety of liquid peroxycarboxylic acid antimicrobial compositions are known to those of skill in the art and can be employed in the methods of the present invention. For example, suitable compositions are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,010,729, issued January 4, 2000 to Gutzmann et al.; 5,718,910, issued February 17, 1998 to Oakes et al.; 5,674,538, issued May 24, 1994 to Lokkesmoe et al.; 5,489,434, issued February 6, 1996 to Oakes et al.; 5,437,868, issued

Appln no. 09/844,965
Amendment dated Oct. 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2004

August 1, 1995 to Oakes et al.; 5,409,713, issued April 25, 1995 to Lokkesmoe et al.; 5,314,687, issued May 24, 1994 to Oakes et al.; and 5,200,189, issued April 6, 1993 to Oakes et al.; which are incorporated herein by reference for disclosure of these compositions and methods for applying them. One preferred composition is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/447,328, filed November 22, 1999 and entitled NON-CORROSIVE STERILANT COMPOSITION, now U.S. Patent No. 6,589,565, which is incorporated herein by reference.